

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-650

April 6, 1999

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Inquiry into the Readiness of Public
Utilities in Maine for Year 2000 Issues

ORDER

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, and DIAMOND Commissioners

On October 21, 1998, the Commission held a conference at which senior representatives of Maine's largest public utilities and other related organizations provided briefings on the state of their readiness for Year 2000 events. To ensure that public utilities in Maine are as well prepared as possible for Year 2000 issues, the Commission will conduct a second conference to hear updated reports from Maine's electric, telecommunications, gas, and water utilities on their readiness for Year 2000 issues.

We have observed that small utilities are not as well prepared for Year 2000 issues as large utilities, and we believe that improved communication among utilities within their service sectors would help all utilities' preparedness for these issues. Thus, we ask our large utilities to report to us on behalf of small ones, to facilitate that communication.

Specifically, to encourage maximum cooperation among utilities, we will ask senior representatives of the largest utilities in each sector to present joint reports of the Year 2000 readiness on behalf of all utilities in that sector. Accordingly, we request Central Maine Power Company and Bangor Hydro-Electric Company to jointly report on the status of each of Maine's 13 electric utilities. We request Bell Atlantic - Maine and the TDS local exchange carriers in Maine to jointly report on the status of each of Maine's 24 incumbent local exchange carriers. We request AT&T and MCI to report on the status of the interexchange carriers serving Maine. We request Northern Utilities and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System to jointly report on the status of gas utilities and pipeline companies serving Maine. We request the Portland Water District and Consumers Maine Water Company to jointly report on the status of water supply utilities in the state. If these utilities believe that others may be better positioned to provide these reports (utility associations, for example), they may advise us of those alternatives no later than April 19, 1999.

Reports should include the status of utilities' Y2K assessment, remediation, testing, and contingency planning activities. Reports should also discuss the extent to

which utilities have identified “critical facilities” that depend on utility services provided by other Maine utilities pursuant to Chapter 130 of the Commission’s rules, actions taken to discuss those facilities with the other utilities involved, and communication of Y2K readiness to customers.

This Conference will be held on **Wednesday, May 19, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the Commission’s Hearing Room. The Conference will be open to the public and the news media, and will be “broadcast” on the internet. We will invite the Independent System Operator - New England to brief us on the readiness of the New England bulk transmission grid during the conference. We will also invite representatives of the Governor’s Year 2000 Readiness Task Force to attend.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 6th day of April, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch
 Nugent
 Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.